



President's Board Report

January 15, 2008

Valley-Bound Commitment Funded For 2009-2010 While Students Celebrate End of First Semester

On December 11, 2008, the SBVC Foundation was notified that it would be receiving a donation in the amount of \$150,000 from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for the 2009-2010 Valley-Bound Commitment with consideration being given for future years based on the successful results of the one-year donation.

SBVC Foundation Director Paul Rubalcaba submitted a proposal to the San Manuel Band of Missions Indians Community Outreach Department in early November for funding to sustain and expand the Valley-Bound Commitment program beyond the 36 students in the current pilot program with Colton High School.

The proposed budget for the program includes the funding for 100 students per year from the area's top ten feeder high schools to attend SBVC and receive a free education in what will be known as the SBVC Valley-Bound Commitment sponsored by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. The donation will support orientations for the students and parents, field trips, and activities that generate additional revenue to the program—one of which is the "Together Again" benefit concert scheduled for April 25, 2009.

Thirty-six students from the inaugural class of the Valley-Bound Commitment were honored in advance of Fall Finals Week for their commitment and effort in their first semester of college on Monday, December 8, 2008.

Students were treated to breakfast and special awards were given to students for perfect attendance in their weekly class and for their community service hours (some of which totaled nearly 30 hours). Students volunteered all around campus and throughout San Bernardino at such events as: Super Saturday, Route 66 Rendezvous, Fall Festival at the Child Development Center and the Track/Field Dedication Ceremony.

Representatives from SBVC Student Services presented the awards and were also recognized for helping the new pilot program get off to a great start.



VP of Student Services Damon Bell awards a certificate to George Mora for his community service work.

Campus Raises \$8,000 for Student Book Scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of SBVC faculty and staff and a bold pledge from SBVC President Dr. Debra Daniels, many SBVC students will now be able to afford textbooks next year after \$8,000 was raised at the annual President's Holiday Gathering.

An impressive array of appetizer foods and holiday treats were prepared by Chef Stacy Meyer and her culinary arts students as employees arrived at the Campus Center on Friday, December 5, 2008 to see 32 over-stuffed gift baskets prepared by departments around campus with themes such as: Chocolate Eruption, The Pampered Pup, Nutz 'Bout Sportz and Toys Galore.



Departmental Network Specialist Mark Byrd fills out his stack of tickets for the raffle.



Administrative Assistant Cheri Jollie deftly employed her secret "basket-winning" strategy and walked away with 4 baskets.

Donated baskets were given away in a raffle drawing at the event to employees who purchased tickets (with proceeds going directly to textbook scholarships). Employees chose which baskets they wanted to drop their raffle tickets into throughout the morning before Dr. Daniels helped draw names of basket winners.

Earlier in the week, Dr. Daniels challenged the campus to support the event by promising a donation to match the total ticket sales. When the campus contribution total came out to \$3,9750. Dr. Daniels' donation doubled it making a grand total of \$7,950 while an anonymous donor contributed another \$50 to reach \$8,000.

"I hope everyone enjoyed the Holiday Gathering. It was wonderful to talk with friends, eat wonderful food, and support our textbook fund," said Dr. Daniels who thanked the campus for their generosity. "Together we are making a difference."

ASL Club Celebrates Deaf Awareness Week

Deaf Awareness Week was held at the beginning of December and included activities, games, lectures, fundraisers and other events. The week was sponsored by the American Sign Language (ASL) Club and its 30 members that include 10 students who are deaf—including advisor and SBVC faculty member Burt Reins

"The theme of the week was 'Two Worlds United For A Better Understanding'," said ASL President Robin Lipshin. "Anybody can join ASL whether or not you know sign language because it's really about getting the two worlds together for the benefit of everybody."



The SBVC ASL Club celebrates Deaf Awareness Week.

The ASL Club meets on Thursdays at noon in North Hall 225B.

Middle College High Ends 2008 With More Accolades

Middle College High School is the proud recipient of two more awards—the Title I Academic Achievement Award and a Bronze Medal from *U.S. News & World Report*.

The Title I Academic Achievement Award honors schools that are providing students with a quality education and doing what it takes to make sure that all students, regardless of economic background, are achieving academic success.

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, and the 21,069 public high schools it analyzed in 48 states, Middle College High School earned the Bronze Award as one of America's best high schools. Of those schools, *U.S. News & World Report* identified schools that best prepared students for college-level work.

“We are extremely proud of the awards received by our partner Middle College,” SBVC's MCHS administrator Dr. Gloria Fisher said. “What is notable is the fact that the students are totally engaged in the post-secondary educational experience at San Bernardino Valley College while simultaneously completing their high school graduation requirements. When Middle College is recognized, college professors, counseling faculty, support staff, and a myriad of college services, contributed to the result. Their success is our success.”

“Middle College's ability to open doors for our District's minority and economically disadvantaged students is one of the reasons I am so proud of the program,” District Coordinator Bette Vest said. “Because of their social and financial circumstances, many of our students have never given college a first thought, let alone a second. But, we have the honor of introducing them to college—the academic rigor, the atmosphere, and the chance to pursue the topics that most excite them.”

SBVC Wolverines Fall Sports Recap

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Coach Wes Ashford's San Bernardino Valley's runners won the school's third consecutive state championship in the sport and the eleventh in any sport since the school was founded.

Led by three returners from the 2007 state championship team, San Bernardino steamrolled through the Foothill Conference and Southern California Regional meets before posting an 27-point victory in the state meet in Fresno. The 27-point victory over their nearest opponent, San Diego Mesa, is 15-points higher than last year.



Sophomore Carlos Perez (Barstow) was the top finisher for SBVC, smashing a school record he tied in 2007 (20:34) with a course finish time of 20:19.05 placing him third among all finishers.

Matthew Sartori (Redlands East Valley) was named an honorable mention for the October SBVC Student Athlete of the Month award and the California Student Athlete of the Month award. Sophomore Jose Lara (Rim of the World) was named an honorable mention for the November SBVC Student Athlete of the Month award and the California Student Athlete of the Month award.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Longtime SBVC coach Ken Blumenthal led the team to a fourth place finish in the Foothill Conference. The women's team featured two sophomore runners, Candice Galusha (Tehachapi H.S.) and Jessica Carter (New Orleans Abramson H.S.). Galusha will transfer to the Cal State San Bernardino and Carter will be involved with track and field in the spring.

FOOTBALL

SBVC Football looks to rebuild after a year that did not yield a victory as SBVC transitioned into the Mountain Conference after three decades in the Foothill Conference. The marquee match-up of the 2008 season was the return of the "Bell Game," where Riverside City College and San Bernardino Valley College met up for the 69th time with RCC posting a 51-10 victory and retaining the "Bell" trophy.

SBVC Football was awarded nine times with Players of the Week honors and 11 players were named honorable mention this season for their contributions on the field. Sophomore standout punter, Mike Langston (Riverside Ramona), was named first team all-Mountain Conference defense and was a four time American Division-Mountain Conference Special Teams/All-Purpose Player of the Week. Langston was also named an honorable mention for the November SBVC Student Athlete of the Month award and the California Student Athlete of the Month award. Named to the second team all-Mountain Conference defense was freshman inside linebacker Shawn Borden (Moreno Valley Valley View H.S.). Sophomore offensive guard Thad Quist (Riverside Arlington) received an honorable mention.

VOLLEYBALL

The 2008 season was filled with transitions as the team was guided, for the first time, by Tricia Rossman. SBVC ended the season in 6th place with a record of 3-21 overall and 1-11 in Conference, finishing sixth.

On the court, freshman standout, Christy Brosius (Glendale, AZ Ironwood H.S.), was named first team all-Foothill Conference. Brosius was also the October SBVC Student Athlete of the Month and was named an honorable mention for the California Student Athlete of the Month award in the same month.

Named to the second team all conference was sophomore Chypre Shaw (San Bernardino Pacific) and those who received an honorable mention were freshman Jezere Wahlgren (Lake Arrowhead Rim of the World) and freshman Serina Alex (Moreno Valley Canyon Springs). Wahlgren was also named an honorable mention for the September SBVC Student Athlete of the Month award and the California Student Athlete of the Month award.



MEN'S SOCCER

The 2008 season proved to be more difficult than predicted as SBVC fell from a 5-11-3 finish in 2007 to 3-12-6. On the field, placing on the first team all conference was sophomore midfielder Ernesto Villeda (San Bernardino) and sophomore forward Alex Arreolla (Yucaipa).

Those named to second team all conference were freshman forward Josh Pope (Colton) and freshman goalkeeper Justin Young (Colton). Pope was also the November SBVC Student Athlete of the Month and was named an honorable mention for the California Student Athlete of the Month award in the same month. Freshman defender Sean Moon (Yucca Valley) was named an honorable mention in the Foothill Conference.



WOMEN'S SOCCER

Under the tutelage of fifth-year coach Kristin Hauge, the team won a school record 15 games. On their way to winning their first Foothill Conference title ever, the squad continued building its reputation as an up-and-coming program in the region. The 15 wins led to another first—a ranking of 6th in the state.

The first place conference finish led to the Wolverines' second straight playoff appearance in the team's history, giving SBVC its first visit to the playoffs in back-to-back years. The result was the naming of head coach Kristin Hauge as Foothill Conference Coach of the Year, and multiple players being awarded for their strengths on the field and in the classroom. Women's Soccer had 12 players named All-Foothill Conference, and freshman midfielder Sylvia Fuentes (Moreno Valley H.S.) was named Foothill Conference Most Valuable Player.

Fuentes is the first player to accomplish all six of the following awards: All-State, All-Southern California, Foothill Conference Most Valuable Player, named honorable mention two times for the SBVC Student Athlete of the Month, named honorable mention two times for the California Student Athlete of the Month, and nominated for NSCAA All-American team.

Sophomore defender Brianna Jones (Rialto Carter), sophomore midfielder Danielle Jones (La Quinta H.S.), sophomore midfielder Korinna Fite (Colton H.S.), and freshman forward Sarahi 'Poly' Bransford (Riverside Poly) were all named to First Team All-Foothill Conference.



Those named second team All-Foothill Conference were sophomore defender Tiffany Jones (Yucaipa), sophomore goal keeper Jackie Jaime (Fontana Kaiser), sophomore forward/midfielder Julie Diaz (Moreno Valley Canyon Springs), and freshman defender Yesenia Castillo (San Bernardino Aquinas). Bransford was also the September SBVC Student Athlete of the Month and was named an honorable mention for the California Student Athlete of the Month award in the same month.

Those named honorable mention All-Foothill Conference were, sophomore forward/midfielder Marisa Zamorez (Colton), freshman goal keeper Maria Magaña (San Bernardino Arroyo Valley), freshman forward Jessica Milts (Riverside Arlington).

Student Profile: All In The Family - Delfina Hernandez-Mendoza & Rolando Hernandez

“The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life.”

-- Plato (427 BC - 347 BC), The Republic

Delfina Hernandez-Mendoza's grandparents were born in Mexico, both her parents lived their lives with a 9th grade education, and as the youngest of five children, she had no vision for her future. The closest role model for her life was set forth by her father, Rudy C. Hernandez, a well-recognized community leader who dedicated himself to helping others in and around San Bernardino. His concern for the community was recognized throughout the city and the Rudy C. Hernandez Community Center on Lugo (near 2nd Street and Sierra Way in San Bernardino) that still bears his name.

At age 14, Delfina's favorite time with her dad was jogging around the track every night together. On the way home one evening, her father had a massive heart attack and died in front of his daughter. Her father's death was a traumatic and devastating blow. Without any therapy or counseling, young Delfina blamed herself and her life took a turn that, unbeknownst to her, would lead her to a quarter-century of abusing drugs and alcohol.

After graduating from Pacific High School in 1980, Delfina tried coming to SBVC to become a nurse. After just over a semester, the need to help pay the family bills was too great and she went to work to help support her newly-widowed mother. A few short years later at age 21, Delfina was married and had a son named Kenny followed by a daughter named Karina.

"I thought my job was to stay home and take care of kids because that's all that my mom, grandma and aunts ever did," Delfina said. "After the kids got a little older I worked in and out of retail jobs for 14 years but didn't have anything to show for it."

In 2003, Delfina's own 17-year old daughter confronted her mother about her addictive lifestyle.

"She said that she didn't want to be a part of my life," Delfina said. "I had been using drugs and alcohol to plug the hole in my life caused by my father's death for so long, that I didn't realize the effect it was having on my own family."

The next day, on September 20, 2003, Delfina walked into a Narcotics Anonymous meeting. Seven days later her husband followed and they embarked on the difficult journey to break free from addictions that held so much power over their lives.



Rolando Hernandez and his aunt Delfina Hernandez-Mendoza

Only six months into recovery, Delfina's nephew, Rolando Hernandez, was diagnosed with numerous cancerous tumors. Rolando, whose father died prematurely after a life of alcohol abuse, had just been released from prison and headed directly to Alcoholics Anonymous himself at the urging of his brother.

After years of treatment for cancer and alcoholism, Rolando's doctors discovered another brain tumor just before his 28th birthday. Once it was finally removed and in remission, he was still left with two inoperable tumors in his chest and back. Despite those hurdles, his life was about to change again with a little help from his aunt yet again.

"My Aunt Delfina said it was time for us to do something with our lives and she wanted both of us to go to college," Rolando said. "I was content to just hang around and collect Social Security and didn't know if I could do it after being in jail, and recovering from my addictions and cancer," Rolando said.

"I told Rolando that since he was in remission and we were both clean, it was time to make something of our lives," Delfina said. "Even though it had been 25 years since I was in school, I always wanted to come back, but didn't think I had the confidence or self-esteem."

In October of 2005, they shrugged off the challenges of their collective past and set out on a new journey as college students at San Bernardino Valley College. Rolando and Delfina (age 29 and 43, respectively, at the time) both enrolled in Human Services classes and soon were infused with confidence by Professors Joan Harter and James Robinson.

"They told me that I can do anything that I want to," Delfina said. "Nobody had ever said that to me before."

The next year, Rolando and Delfina both got involved in the Puente Program at SBVC.

“Joining Puente was the single best thing that I got involved with as it helped open the doors to see that education was so big and could open so many more doors,” Delfina said. “It was like a home on campus and it was through this group and others like Professor Milligan, Mary Beth Barrios and others that I learned how to speak and write better. I was exposed to my first novel and first live stage event through Puente.”

Throughout their career at SBVC, Delfina and Rolando have taken all but one course together—totaling more than 35 classes. Beyond their involvement in Puente and the Human Services Club, both students credit the numerous tutoring programs on campus and the dedicated individuals who worked with them continually. Without the community of support, neither would be anxiously anticipating May 22, 2009, when they’ll both graduate with double Associates degrees in Human Services and Liberal Arts.

“Never in my wildest dreams did I think I’d graduate with a degree—much less two degrees,” Delfina shared. “I couldn’t have done this without the support of the strongest survivor I know--my mother who is now 80 and has overcome breast cancer.”

“On the cover of the course catalogs at SBVC, it says ‘Your future starts here’ and it’s really true,” Rolando said. “It was hard to balance being a student with my fears, but I learned to live life to the fullest every day after surviving cancer because there’s no promise of tomorrow.”



(From L to R) Rolando Hernandez, Delfina Hernandez-Mendoza, her daughter Karina and son Kenny in Dr. Todd Heibel’s Geography Class.

Rolando and Delfina’s commitment to change the unhealthy patterns of their family was, in a word, addictive. On Mondays and Wednesdays this last Fall semester in Dr. Todd Heibel’s Geography class, you could find Rolando and his study-buddy Aunt Delfina. But, sitting next to them was Delfina’s son and daughter who are also students at SBVC. In the evenings, Delfina’s husband Kenny comes to classes after work.

Now that the tradition and patterns they inherited have been radically redefined for future generations, what does tomorrow hold for Rolando and Delfina?

For Rolando, he starts at Cal State San Bernardino in January in pursuit of his B.A. in Human Services with the intent of getting into the field and helping others. For Delfina, she’s applying to Cal State San Bernardino and wants to help children and families affected by drugs and alcohol—something that would most certainly bring a smile to the face of her mother and father.

Save The Date

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

5:30 p.m. – Hilton San Bernardino

San Bernardino Mayor Patrick Morris and the Education RoundTable’s Golden Apple Awards

Join in this celebration of education in San Bernardino as SBVC awardees are honored along with SBCUSD and CSUSB staff and faculty. Dinner is \$30/person. For more information, contact the Mayor’s Office at 909.384.5133